

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission

ITEM

12

DECISION

TOPIC Agreement with Boone Soil and Water Conservation District

The Department requests Commission approval of an agreement between the Department and the Boone Soil and Water Conservation District. The primary purpose of this agreement will be to fund a position that will work with private landowners utilizing best management practices that improve water quality and wildlife habitat in the “impaired” Big Creek Lake watershed in Boone and Polk Counties. This agreement will further achieve the goals of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Fisheries and Wildlife Bureau and 319 Program.

The Wildlife Bureau in partnership with the Fisheries Bureau and Lakes Restoration Program successfully applied for a 319 grant, a federal award made available through the Environmental Protection Agency and the Environmental Services Division of the Department. This contract will enable the Department to put a person on the ground who will work with private landowners in the impaired Big Creek watershed.

The individual would not be an employee of the DNR but, instead, would be employed by the Boone Soil and Water Conservation District and housed out of the Boone USDA office.

The funding for the position will be \$9,000 Wildlife Bureau (Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund), \$11,000 Lakes Restoration Fund (General Fund), \$15,000 319 funding (Federal Funds). NRCS will provide office space, vehicle, phones, secretarial support, internet, office supplies in-kind.

The total cost of the agreement to the DNR will not exceed \$35,000.

Dr. Dale Garner, Wildlife Bureau Chief
Conservation and Recreation Division
February 11, 2010